

FILE 'USPAT' ENTERED AT 15:32:38 ON 21 JUL 1998

=> s automatic upgrade

263174 AUTOMATIC

5260 UPGRADE

L1 9 AUTOMATIC UPGRADE
(AUTOMATIC(W)UPGRADE)

=> d 1-9

1. 5,774,544, Jun. 30, 1998, Method an apparatus for encrypting and decrypting microprocessor serial numbers; Sherman Lee, et al., 380/4, 9, 23, 25, 49, 50 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
2. 5,758,071, May 26, 1998, Method and system for tracking the configuration of a computer coupled to a computer network; Gregory M. Burgess, et al., 395/200.5, 200.43, 200.54 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
3. 5,666,293, Sep. 9, 1997, Downloading operating system software through a broadcast channel; Erik C. Metz, et al., 395/200.5; 348/7, 10, 12; 455/3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
4. 5,588,143, Dec. 24, 1996, Automatic computer upgrading; Richard A. Stupek, Jr., et al., 395/500, 701; 707/1 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
5. 5,586,304, Dec. 17, 1996, Automatic computer upgrading; Richard A. Stupek, Jr., et al., 395/712; 707/201 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
6. 5,530,620, Jun. 25, 1996, Computer system with externally accessible upgrade capability; Vic Sangveraphunsiri, 361/686; 70/58; 361/726 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
7. 5,448,426, Sep. 5, 1995, **Automatic** **upgrade** of code from tape cartridge; Ole C. Dahlerud, 360/69, 25, 27, 74.5 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
8. 5,326,027, Jul. 5, 1994, Automatic configuration of air conditioning controller; Louis E. Sulfstede, 236/51; 165/11.1; 236/94; 307/155 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]
9. 5,092,596, Mar. 3, 1992, Professional sports strategy game; Laurence J. Bucaria, 273/244.2, 142E, 146, 297 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]

=> d ab 2

US PAT NO: 5,758,071 [IMAGE AVAILABLE] L1: 2 of 9

ABSTRACT:

A method and system for tracking the configuration of a computer coupled to a computer network is shown such that configuration data is repeatedly obtained using a first computer wherein the configuration data comprises information about the configuration of the first computer. The

configuration data is automatically sent over the computer network to a second computer coupled to the network. The configuration data is logged to a configuration database using the second computer.

FILE 'USPAT' ENTERED AT 16:12:45 ON 21 JUL 1998

=> s download (2a) server

3288 DOWNLOAD

6869 SERVER

L1 34 DOWNLOAD (2A) SERVER

=> s update (2a) client

29279 UPDATE

4195 CLIENT

L2 76 UPDATE (2A) CLIENT

=> s l1 and l2

L3 2 L1 AND L2

=> d 1-2

1. 5,758,355, May 26, 1998, Synchronization of server database with client database using distribution tables; David D. Buchanan, 707/201, 1, 200 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]

2. 5,752,042, May 12, 1998, Server computer for selecting program updates for a client computer based on results of recognizer program(s) furnished to the client computer; Gary Lee Cole, et al., 395/712, 200.49, 200.51, 703; 707/203 [IMAGE AVAILABLE]

=> d hit 2

US PAT NO: 5,752,042 [IMAGE AVAILABLE] L3: 2 of 2

SUMMARY:

BSUM(5)

There are various known techniques for a server to provide a client with a code update. In one technique, clients register with the server for updates to a particular program, and whenever the server obtains a new update for that program, the server automatically sends the code ****update**** to every ****client**** on the list. Unfortunately, some clients may not wish to obtain the update because of cost, download time or other reason. Alternately, a client can periodically request all updates and the server will respond accordingly. Unfortunately again, the client may not need every code update but nevertheless, endures the cost and download time.

DETDESC:

DETD(4)

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the selection server 12 is an http server with an associated "CGI" program 31 and includes an update selection program 30. The client 14 includes an update manager program 32 (including a GUI), a scout routine 33, a service application routine 34 and a download routine 39. The functions of the server and client programming and a typical client/server session for selecting and downloading updates are illustrated in FIGS. 3(a,b). A user at client computer 14 selects an icon to invoke update manager 32. In response, the update manager contacts the general manager 31 in server 12 to begin a session and supplies the current level of update manager 32, scout 33, service application 34 and download routine 39 within client 14 (step 104). In response, the general manager 31 determines if the ****client****'s ****update**** manager 32, scout 33, service application 12 and download routine 39 are the latest version (step 106). This determination is performed by comparing the client level information supplied by the client 14 to the data in selection server 12 for the latest version of the ****client****'s ****update**** manager 32, scout 33, service application 34 and download routine 39 stored in the content server 17.

DETDESC:

DETD(5)

If the ****client****'s ****update**** manager, scout, service application and download routine are not the latest version, the server sends the FTP addressing information to the client to allow the client to retrieve the latest versions from a content server. Along with the FTP addressing for the ****client**** ****update**** manager, scout, service application and ****download**** routine, the ****server**** sends FTP addressing information to the client for a basic system information recognizer program 41 stored in content server 17 (step 107). Next, the client downloads and installs the latest version of the ****client**** ****update**** manager, scout, service application and download routine from the content server if the FTP addressing was provided (step 108).

DETDESC:

DETD(18)

The results of the recognizer programs include yes/no answers whether each respective code update is appropriate for the client, i.e. not currently resident in client 14 (and consistent with the client basic system information as determined previously in step 114). The recognizer programs can also assign a "critical" level to each code update based on the need of the ****client**** for the ****update****. For example, if another program in the client needs this code update to function, then this code update would be assigned a high level of criticality. After the recognizer programs are executed in client 14, client 14 sends to selection server 12 a list of the code updates which are appropriate for the client (step 120).